

tinted streak of plumbago as conclusively fixing the character of the specimens under consideration.

The occurrence of plumbago in numerous localities associated with coal, was alluded to, and the fact was noticed, that in these cases the beds of altered or *graphitized* coal, are generally in close proximity with igneous rocks.

This natural conversion of coal into plumbago, with the artificial production of it in the iron furnace, the gas retort and other similar situations, together with its existence in primary rocks, or in the fissures of adjacent sedimentary rocks, appear to point to a common origin of the material in all these cases.

Prof. J. proposed to give at a future meeting some further illustrations of the subject.

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Resolutions were adopted, accepting a proposal from Dr. Morton to purchase from the Academy for a proper consideration, the remaining half of the range of cases in the South flying-gallery, for the purpose of accommodating an additional portion of his collection of Crania—and also authorising the Curators to have erected forthwith, a similar range of cases for books in the North flying-gallery.

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*Stated Meeting, July 23, 1844.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Two finely prepared specimens of *Rana* ——, from the Island of Dominica. Presented by Mr. Wm. L. Bispham, of Philadelphia.

Leaves and seed-vessels of *Alpinia nutans*, and a portion of the milky juice of the *Galactodendron utile*, or Cow-tree of South America. Presented by Miss Percival, of Philadelphia.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

A Geological Map of the Western States; and a concise description of the Geological formations, &c., of the Western States, designed as a Key to the Map. By Byrem Lawrence. From Dr. Morton.

Map (No. 3,) of the boundary lines between the United States and the adjacent British provinces, &c. Compiled by Lieut. T. I. Lee & W. M. C. Fairfax, under the direction of Major J. D. Graham, U. S. Topog. Eng. From Major Graham.

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The Chairman read a portion of a letter from Richard Kip-pist, Esq., Librarian of the Linnean Society of London, dated May 29, 1844, requesting specimens of seeds and seed-vessels of this country. Referred to the Botanical Committee.

Mr. Geo. R. Gliddon read some extracts from a letter dated Khàrtoon, (1600 miles up the Nile, at the junction of the White and Blue Rivers,) 22d and 26th March, 1844, addressed by Mr. Abeken (the friend and ‘compagnon de voyage’ of Dr. Lepsius,) to Joseph Bonomi, Esq., at Cairo, and by this last gentleman communicated to Mr. Gliddon at Philadelphia.

After describing the Journey and proceedings of the Prussian Scientific Mission, from their departure from *Korosko* (Lower Nubia) on the 8th January, to the return to Khàrtoon of Dr. Lepsius and himself, from their excursion into the province of Sennaar along the Blue Nile, as far as the 13th degree of North Latitude, Mr. Abeken says, in regard to the Monuments and *Pyramids* on the Island of *Meroë* :

“ Thus the fabulous antiquity of Meroë has dwindled away! I dare affirm, that, on the whole Island or Peninsula of Meroë, there is not one vestige of remote antiquity; and, for my own part, I have no doubt, that Æthiopia received its religion, literature and civilization entirely from Egypt; and *that* even at a comparatively late time. We are anxious to see the works of *Tirkaka* (3d King of the Ethiopian, or *Cush*-ite Dynasty—the XXV. Dynasty of Manetho—B. C. 695—see *Rosellini’s* chronology in *Gliddon’s* Ancient Egypt,) at Gebel Barkal; and to try whether, perhaps, we can make out a connecting link between him and the later Æthiopians of Meroë.”